

Public Issues Report 3rd Quarter 2007

Public File 2007 – 3rd Quarter

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July 2

This might be a good time to start meditating! New research reveals that putting negative emotions into words can calm the brain's emotional center.

July 3

The first baby created from an egg that had been grown in a lab... frozen... thawed and then fertilized, was born in Canada. The baby girl marks the first in what scientists hope will be a good option for women who become infertile because of ovarian cancer or cysts.

July 4

Hundreds of dead seabirds are washing up along the southeast coast and experts claim they're dying of starvation but don't know why. The birds known as "greater shearwaters" have wildlife officials worried about possible changes in the ocean that could be affecting the fish the birds eat. About a thousand of the dead birds have been found from the Bahamas to Florida and north to the Carolinas.

July 5

SINCE THE SEVENTIES... THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL SAYS OBESITY RATES HAVE NEARLY "QUINTUPLED" AMONG THE SIX TO ELEVEN YEAR OLD CROWD AND TRIPLED AMONG TEENS AND YOUNGER CHILDREN.

July 6

TRIPLE... YES TRIPLE DIGIT TEMPERATURES COULD SET RECORDS AS WE HEAD INTO THE WEEKEND. RESIDENTS IN PARTS OF ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO STAY INSIDE AS TEMPS REACHED AS HIGH AS 125 DEGREES yesterday!

July 9

AND NOW A NEW STUDY CONTENDS THAT MOST SUNSCREENS DON'T LIVE UP TO THEIR PROMISE OF PROTECTING AGAINST HARMFUL ULTRAVIOLET RAYS. SUNSCREENS WERE DESIGNED INITIALLY TO BLOCK OUT U-V-B'S... BUT MORE RECENT STUDIES SUGGEST THAT U-V-A RAYS ARE ALSO DANGEROUS, AND MOST CURRENT SUNSCREENS DO NOT EFFECTIVELY BLOCK THEM.

July 10

MAYBE THERE IS A MAGIC PILL AFTERALL! THE PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION MADE BY PFIZER AND SOLD UNDER THE NAME CHANTIX APPEARS TO HOLD PROMISE IN

CURBING THE URGES TO BOTH SMOKE AND DRINKING ALCOHOL IN ADDITION TO TREATING DISEASES LIKE ALZHEIMER'S AND PARKINSON'S. RESEARCHERS THINK IT MIGHT EVEN BE EFFECTIVE IN CURBING ADDICTIONS TO PAINKILLERS AND GAMBLING.

July 11

MANY HOMEOWNERS ARE FALLING VICTIM TO WHAT SOME SAY ARE FORECLOSURE SCAMS, WHERE COMPANIES OFFER TO HELP HOMEOWNERS OUT OF FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS, BUT IN FACT ARE GETTING HOMEOWNERS TO UNKNOWINGLY SIGN THEIR PROPERTIES OVER AND EFFECTIVELY MAKE THEMSELVES RENTERS. LEGAL EXPERTS WARN THAT YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY READ THE FINE PRINT IN ANY FORECLOSURE ASSISTANCE CONTRACTS.

July 12

A STUDY OF 138 CHILDREN SUGGESTS A COMBINATION OF NATURE AND NURTURE MAY MAKE SOME CHILDREN MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS. YOUNG CHILDREN WHO HAD BOTH A STRESSFUL HOME LIFE AND AN EXAGGERATED NERVOUS SYSTEM RESPONSE TO STRESS WERE MOST LIKELY TO ACT OUT IN SCHOOL AND AMONG THEIR PEERS.

July 13

AND NOW IPOD USERS ARE BEGINNING TO REPORT LIGHTNING STRIKES. EVEN THOUGH ELECTRONIC DEVICES DON'T ATTRACT LIGHTNING, DOCTORS SAY SWEAT AND METAL EARPHONES CAN CHANNEL LIGHTNING.

July 16

ABOUT ONE IN SIX BABY BOOMERS HAVE HEARING LOSS, ACCORDING TO THE BETTER HEARING INSTITUTE. EXPERTS SAY BOOMERS ARE LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS BECAUSE THEY ARE THE FIRST ROCK 'N' ROLL GENERATION, GROWING UP WITH LOUD MUSIC AND PERSONAL STEREO SYSTEMS.

July 17

ACCORDING TO A 2004 SURVEY, ONLY 48 PERCENT OF U-S CHILDREN WHO LIVE WITHIN A MILE OF THEIR SCHOOL, WALK OR RIDE A BIKE TO SCHOOL AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK. THIS IS LINKED TO THE ESCALATING RATES OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY.

July 18

FAMILIES WITH SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN ARE EXPECTED TO SPEND ABOUT 564 DOLLARS THIS YEAR FOR SCHOOL-RELATED GEAR, UP ALMOST 7 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO. THE REPORT SAYS ITS BECAUSE PARENTS ARE SPENDING MONEY ON COMPUTERS, EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE AND PRINTERS.

July 19

ELEVEN OF THE NATION'S BIGGEST FOOD AND DRINK COMPANIES WILL ADOPT NEW RULES TO LIMIT ADVERTISING TO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 12. THE COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THEIR NEW RULES AHEAD OF A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION HEARING ON RESPONSIBLE MARKETING AMID THE GROWING CHILD OBESITY PROBLEM.

July 20

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH RESEARCHERS HAVE TESTED A NASAL SPRAY ON 70 PEOPLE THAT THEY SAY RELIEVED PEOPLE OF SHYNESS. THE SPRAY CONTAINS A SYNTHETIC VERSION OF THE FEEL-GOOD HORMONE CALLED OXYTOCIN, AND GIVES AN INDIVIDUAL AN IMMEDIATE BOOST OF SELF-CONFIDENCE JUST BY SQUIRTING IT UP THE NOSE.

July 23

RESEARCHERS FOUND THAT MEN ARE HAPPIEST IF THEY MARRY SMART WOMEN AND THAT EVERY EXTRA YEAR OF EDUCATION A WIFE HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE CHANCES HER HUSBAND WILL REPORT BEING HIGHLY SATISFIED WITH LIFE.

July 24

THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU PICK UP YOUR FAVORITE DIET SODA. A NEW STUDY FOUND PEOPLE WHO DRANK MORE THAN ONE DIET SODA EVERY DAY DEVELOPED THE SAME RISKS FOR HEART DISEASE AS THOSE WHO DOWNED SUGARY REGULAR SODA. BUT IT MAY NOT BE THE SODA. RESEARCHERS SAY THE DIET STUFF MAY MAKE PEOPLE CRAVE OTHER SWEETS.

July 25

OFFICIALS SAY THE NUMBER OF "CONVICTED SEX CRIMINALS" FOUND ON MYSPACE HAS MORE THAN QUADRUPLD TO 29 THOUSAND SINCE SOFTWARE DESIGNED TO WEED THEM OUT BEGAN RUNNING IN MAY!

July 26

IF YOU'RE ALLERGIC TO PEANUTS, THIS NEXT STORY MIGHT PUT YOU AT EASE! A RESEARCHER AT A NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY MAY HAVE FOUND A WAY TO SAVE LIVES BY CREATING A PATENT PENDING ALLERGEN-FREE PEANUT.

July 27

Here's another must have to add to your summer list... the fit flop! The sandal sensation is selling out faster than stores can keep them in stock. The cushy soled shoes are designed to tone your legs with every step you take. The fit flop is engineered to absorb shock, lessen joint strain, and recreate the gait of barefoot walking.

July 30

If you've received an email from the i-r-s or the federal trade commission... be forewarned, it could be a hoax! Identity thieves have sent thousands of bogus emails pretending to be from the F-t-c as well as the Internal Revenue Service in an attempt to fish personal information from consumers.

July 31

US HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT CHINA ISN'T INSURING THE SAFETY, QUALITY, AND EFFECTIVENESS OF MANY PRODUCTS IT EXPORTS STATESIDE. A SERIES OF CHINESE PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN RECALLED THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF SAFETY ISSUES INCLUDING PET FOOD, FISH, JUICE, TOYS AND TOOTHPASTE.

August 1

NEW RESEARCH INDICATES THAT THE COMBINATION OF EXERCISE AND CAFFEINE MAY INCREASE THE DESTRUCTION OF PRECANCEROUS CELLS BY AS MUCH AS 400 PERCENT.

August 2

AND, NOW IT'S TIME TO CHECK YOUR KIDS TOY CHEST! FISHER-PRICE IS RECALLING ALMOST A MILLION TOYS WORLDWIDE BECAUSE OF EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF LEAD IN THEIR PAINT. THE 83 TYPES OF TOYS INCLUDE THE POPULAR BIG BIRD, ELMO, DORA AND DIEGO CHARACTERS.

August 3

MORE THAN 33 MILLION PEOPLE ARE INJURED BY HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS EVERY YEAR. AND NOW THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION HAS IDENTIFIED THE TOP FIVE HIDDEN HOME HAZARDS -- MAGNETS, RECALLED PRODUCTS, FURNITURE PRONE TO TIP-OVERS, WINDOWS AND COVERINGS, AND POOL DRAINS.

August 6

74 PERCENT OF AMERICAN WOMEN WHO GAVE BIRTH IN 2004 BREAST-FED THEIR BABIES FOR AT LEAST SOME PERIOD OF TIME. BUT FEDERAL HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY MOST OF THESE WOMEN ARE QUITTING TOO SOON AND RESORTING TO INFANT FORMULA TOO OFTEN. THEY SAY FORMULA ISN'T AS GOOD AT PROTECTING BABIES AGAINST DISEASES, ECZEMA AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND THAT IDEALLY, NEARLY ALL MOTHERS SHOULD BREAST-FEED THEIR BABIES FOR SIX MONTHS OR MORE.

August 7

If you're Traveling anytime soon maybe you should think about taking the bus. The airline industry's "on-time" record in the first six months of this year was its worst since 1995. Part of the reason experts say is that more people are flying. In addition, the government also said weather-related delays were up from a year ago... and lost luggage complaints were also on the rise.

August 8

FRENCH RESEARCHERS FOUND WOMEN AGED 65 AND OLDER WHO DRANK MORE THAN THREE CUPS OF COFFEE PER DAY SUFFERED LESS MEMORY DECLINE THAN THOSE WHO DRANK ONE CUP OR LESS PER DAY. THE STUDY RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT CAFFEINE MAY EVEN PROTECT AGAINST THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMENTIA.

August 9

AMERICANS CURRENTLY SPEND ABOUT 275 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR ON PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES. BUT OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, ANALYSTS FORECAST A GOLDEN ERA FOR GENERIC DRUGS, AS PATENTS BEGIN TO EXPIRE ON BRAND-NAME MEDICATIONS OPENING THE DOOR TO COPYCATS THAT MAY BE 30 PERCENT TO 80 PERCENT CHEAPER. THE RISE OF GENERICS HAS HELPED SLOW SPENDING INCREASES FOR PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS OVER ALL, EVEN THOUGH AN AGING POPULATION IS CONSUMING MORE DRUGS.

August 10

THE MAJORITY OF 41 PATIENTS WHO WERE TREATED WITH A NEW SURGICAL TECHNIQUE TO STOP EXCESSIVE UNDERARM SWEATING EXPERIENCED A 75 PERCENT REDUCTION IN SWEAT. GERMAN DOCTORS REMOVED THE PATIENTS SWEAT GLANDS BY LITERALLY SUCKING THEM OUT, THROUGH A PROCESS SIMILAR TO LIPOSUCTION.

August 13

HEALTH EXPERTS AND ECONOMISTS SAY, if congress raises the federal cigarette tax to one dollar a pack. THE NATION MAY see one of the biggest DECLINES IN SMOKING. Experts say people give up the cigs if the taxes increase. CIGARETTE SALES FELL 18 PERCENT IN NORTH CAROLINA LAST YEAR AFTER THE TAX WAS RAISED from a nickel TO 35 CENTS AND AFTER NEW JERSEY RAISED ITS TAX FROM 80 CENTS to 2-dollars 40 cents IN 2002... SMOKING DROPPED 35 PERCENT.

August 14

THEY SAY STATISTICS REVEAL A GROWING TREND IN WOMEN'S PURCHASING POWER --- IN THE U.S., WOMEN MAKE 85 PERCENT OF ALL PURCHASE DECISIONS. WOMEN ARE CENTRAL TO 94 PERCENT OF HOME FURNISHING PURCHASES, 91 PERCENT OF HOME PURCHASES, 60 PERCENT OF VEHICLE PURCHASES.

August 15

IT WASN'T too LONG AGO that THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE in most states was 18... AND NOW SOME ARE FIGHTING TO return to the "good ole days!" ADVOCATES OF THE MOVE SAY 18 YEAR OLDS ARE CONSIDERED OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE, GO TO WAR, AND BE CONSIDERED AN "ADULT"... SO THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO THROW BACK A BREWSKY! THE PROPOSAL IS PART OF A PETITION DRIVE BY THE NATIONAL YOUTH RIGHTS ASSOCIATION. AND if you think it sounds absurd... you might be surprised to hear that A HANDFUL OF STATES ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING IT. SUPPORTERS IN FLORIDA, WISCONSIN, VERMONT AND MISSOURI ARE PUSHING A BALLOT INITIATIVE... as there is no federal legal drinking age... just parameters each state sets up listing certain conditions for minors. CRITICS SAY IT'S A BAD MOVE... and point to the reported rise of binge drinking as teens pass up beer for the hard stuff.

August 16

Another sign the Iraq war is taking its toll on our military... the rate of suicide for Army soldiers is at its highest in 26 years, and more than a quarter did so while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The pentagon report found there were 99 confirmed suicides among active duty soldiers during 2006, up from 88 the previous year and the highest number since the 102 suicides in 1991 at the time of the Persian Gulf War.

August 17

HERE ARE THE HEADLINES FROM C-N-N AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. THE SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOR will head home "WITH" THE GAP ON ITS UNDERBELLY.

August 20

AND, A PERSISTENT HEAT-WAVE IS NOW BEING BLAMED FOR 50 DEATHS ACROSS THE MIDWEST THIS MORNING A TEN-DAY, TRIPLE-DIGIT HOT STREAK IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FINALLY BROKE YESTERDAY.

August 21

AND.. LABOR DAY IS JUST UNDER TWO WEEKS AWAY, BUT THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY LAUNCHING A NATIONWIDE "DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE CAMPAIGN". THE "OVER THE LIMIT, UNDER ARREST," CAMPAIGN WANTS COPS AROUND THE COUNTRY TO SET UP AND ENFORCE CHECKPOINTS TO CATCH DRUNK DRIVERS.

August 22

IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE DONUTS AND FIGHT OFF CROOKS! COPS IN BOSTON SAY TWO CLERKS FOUGHT BACK WHEN A ROBBER TRIES TO RUN OFF WITH THE CASH. THEY CHASED HIM OUT OF THE STORE.. THE ROBBER JUMPED INTO HIS CAR AND ONE CLERK JUMPED THROUGH THE DRIVER'S WINDOW TO GET HIM TO STOP. INVESTIGATORS SAY THE ROBBER DIDN'T CARE AND KEPT ON DRIVING WITH THE EMPLOYEE HOLDING ON. EVENTUALLY THE CLERK GAVE UP AND LET GO AND THE ROBBER SPED OFF.

August 23

MORE AND MORE AMERICANS ARE GETTING FED UP WITH THE HIGH COST OF DENTAL WORK STATESIDE... SO THEY'RE PACKING UP AND CROSSING BORDERS AND OCEANS TO GET THEIR WORK DONE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY... FOR HALF THE PRICE!

August 24

AND, THE MIDWEST IS TRYING TO DRY OUT THIS MORNING FROM SOME OF THE WORST THAT MOTHER NATURE COULD THROW AT THEM. FROM FLOODING TO POWERFUL STORMS THE MIDWEST HAS REALLY TAKEN A BEATING. THIS IS VIDEO FROM NEW HARTFORD IOWA...WHERE PEOPLE ARE SLOSHING AROUND TOWN BECAUSE OF FLOODING. AND THEY ARE NOT ALONE... FLOODING HAS SUBMERGED TOWNS FROM ILLINOIS TO OHIO. BUT THINGS ARE SORT OF LOOKING UP FOR SOME RESIDENTS OF FINDLAY, OHIO. THEY HAVE BEGUN RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE FROM THE CITY'S WORST FLOODING IN NEARLY A CENTURY.

August 27

THE EMBATTLED ATLANTA FALCONS Q-B WILL FORMALLY PLEAD GUILTY TODAY TO FEDERAL DOGFIGHTING CONSPIRACY CHARGES. In the written plea filed in FEDERAL COURT Friday... VICK ADMITS he was "involved in killing six to eight dogs that did not perform well in testing sessions" and supplied money for bets. VICK FACES UP TO FIVE YEARS BEHIND BARS AND A 250-THOUSAND DOLLAR FINE. Meanwhile... his former teammates will take on the Cincinnati Bengals tonight!

August 28

PARTS OF SIN CITY ARE UNDER WATER THIS MORNING AFTER SUMMER STORMS DUMPED INCHES OF RAIN. FROM THE AIR, YOU CAN SEE JUST HOW BAD THE FLOODING IS. VEGAS RESCUE CREWS HAD TO MAKE AT LEAST TWO DOZEN WATER RESCUES, LIFTING PEOPLE FROM FLOODED STREETS AND STRANDED CARS. THE STORMS ALSO KNOCKED OUT POWER TO THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES. IN WISCONSIN MORE RAIN SOAKED AN ALREADY DRENCHED STATE, FORCING RESIDENTS BELOW FOUR DAMS TO EVACUATE.

August 29

FOR YEARS, DAN FRAZIER HAS SOLD ANTI-WAR T-SHIRTS FEATURING THE NAMES OF SOLDIERS WHO HAVE DIED IN IRAQ. THE NAMES FORM THE SLOGAN "BUSH LIED" ON THE FRONT.... AND "THEY DIED" ON THE BACK. As you can imagine... FAMILY MEMBERS of those fallen soldiers were not pleased and they persuaded the GOVERNOR to SIGN A LAW AIMED AT STOPPING FRAZIER FROM PROFITING OFF THEIR NAMES WITHOUT the family's PERMISSION. FRAZIER SAYS IT'S HIS RIGHT... AND HE'S ASKED the courts to step in and PROTECT HIM FROM civil lawsuits. THE JUDGE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A DECISION IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS... UNTIL THEN, FRAZIER SAYS HE will continue to sell THE TEES IN ALL 50 STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD.

August 30

THINGS ARE NOT LOOKING so good for Idaho senator Larry Craig. REPUBLICANS... including those log cabin types ARE taking a stance and calling for Craig to quit AFTER being caught toe tapping in a men's restroom. Craig is COOPERATING WITH SENATE LEADERS BY STEPPING ASIDE AS THE SENIOR REPUBLICAN ON A FEW COMMITTEES INCLUDING VETERAN AFFAIRS... instead of don't ask don't tell... he might have been better off with "can you spare a square?"

August 31

And the ridiculously high gas prices last year were "not fueled" by shady practices! That's the word from the federal trade commission! It says it didn't find any evidence of market manipulation by refiners or any other sellers last summer when prices spiked to more than three bucks a gallon! It reported to President Bush that 75-percent of the run-up was because of the increases in the price of crude oil and ethanol. Ah, but the plot thickens... one of the commissioners voted against the final report... Saying the theoretical models used didn't reflect the real possibility of price gauging!

September 3

BUT WHILE PEOPLE IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY ARE ENJOYING THE SUN AND FUN... People living in JERSEY WILL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO parlay. OFFICIALS THERE HAD TO CLOSE SEVERAL BEACHES Yesterday AFTER FINDING MEDICAL WASTE IN THE WATER. Dirty needles, AND OTHER TRASH FLOATED RIGHT UP ONTO THE SHORE. Now they're trying to figure out where it came from.

September 4

People who smoke are more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia than people who have quit or have never smoked. ACCORDING TO a STUDY DONE BY DUTCH RESEARCHERS... 700 people developed dementia out of seven thousand Smokers over the age of 55... and 50 percent of them were more prone to Alzheimer's than their nonsmoking counterparts.

September 5

GERMANY'S DEFENSE MINISTER SAYS POLICE ARRESTED THREE SUSPECTS FOR PLOTTING TO ATTACK U-S MILITARY BASES.

September 6

A GAS STATION IN FAIRBORN SLIPPED UP... OR SHOULD I SAY DOWN... ON ITS' PRICES. IT'S SUPPOSED TO COST 3 DOLLARS AND 25 CENTS FOR A GALLON OF THE

GOOD STUFF... BUT EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING DRIVERS WERE TREATED TO A "POINT" 3-2-5 PRICE DISPLAY! A FEW DRIVERS SAY THEY TEXTED THEIR BUDDIES ABOUT THE 32 CENT GAS AND FILLED UP AS FAST AS THEY COULD! THE GAS STATION ATTENDANTS DIDN'T NOTICE THE MISTAKE UNTIL THE SUN CAME UP!

September 7

The school superintendent in Kansas City, Missouri believes he's found the wave of the future in education: Eliminate middle school and test scores will go up.

After 50 years of elementary, middle, and high school... THE CITY is STARTING THE "ELEMIDDLE"... WHICH WILL GO FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE. THE HOPE IS THAT it'll be more of a nurturing environment for kids... Where they stick with one teacher... one classroom... And have fewer students running around. AND THAT in turn will help improve GRADES AND BEHAVIOR.

September 10

AND, LIKE OH MY GOSH! LAWMAKERS ARE LIKE TIGHTENING THEIR GRIP ON TEENAGER DRIVERS. LISTEN TO THIS... AT LEAST A DOZEN STATES ARE CONSIDERING laws that would BAN TEENS FROM USING ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT WHILE DRIVING... Like cell phones, laptops.. Or walkie-talkies.. Even those "hands-free" devices. CALIFORNIA is leading the way.. And a BILL COULD LAND ON GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER'S DESK THIS WEEK. THE BAN WOULD TARGET 16 AND 17-YEAR-OLDS. VIOLATORS WOULD GET FINED BUT THEY WOULDN'T GET POINTS ON THEIR RECORDS.

September 11

PEOPLE IN THE BIG "D" ARE TREADING WATER THIS MORNING AFTER HEAVY RAINS POUNDED THE CITY. THINGS WERE SO BAD FIREFIGHTERS HAD TO PERFORM DOZENS OF HIGH WATER RESCUES. EVEN DALLAS-FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HAD TO CANCEL DOZENS OF FLIGHTS BECAUSE OF THE RAINFALL. OFFICIALS SAY A RECORD THREE POINT NINE INCHES FELL AROUND THE AIRPORT MAKING SOME PARTS LOOK LIKE A LAKE. RIGHT NOW THEY ARE GETTING THINGS BACK TO NORMAL. THE STANDING WATER FORCED OFFICIALS TO CLOSE SOME LOCAL ROADS.

September 12

AND, THE STATE OF TENNESSEE HAS PUT ITSELF RIGHT BACK ON THE RECORD BOOKS AS A STATE THAT FOLLOWS THROUGH WITH EXECUTIONS. A man CONVICTED OF MURDERING FOUR KIDS WITH AN ASSAULT RIFLE WAS PUT TO DEATH BY ELECTROCUTION overnight. DARYL HOLTON WAS TENNESSEE'S FIRST INMATE PUT TO DEATH IN THE CHAIR SINCE 19-60... Which "he" chose over the lethal injection. HE CONFESSED TO SHOOTING HIS THREE YOUNG SONS AND THEIR HALF-SISTER IN 19-97 BECAUSE HIS EX-WIFE REFUSED TO LET HIM SEE THEM. HOLTON SAID HE INTENDED TO KILL HER AND HIMSELF, BUT INSTEAD TURNED HIMSELF IN.

September 13

If your minister got his or her license off the web... your marriage might be a fraud! check this out... a Pennsylvania judge recently ruled that a couple's wedding certificate was no good because the ceremony was performed by a friend ordained via the internet. According to state law... the only people qualified to officiate a marriage are

judges, mayors, and leaders of established congregations. The universal life church which ordains online ministers is hoping to appeal.

September 14

AND.. OPENING ARGUMENTS IN A 200-MILLION-DOLLAR BIZARRE LAWSUIT AGAINST MCDONALD'S KICKED OFF YESTERDAY IN KENTUCKY. THEN 18 YEAR OLD FORMER EMPLOYEE Louise Ogborn SAYS SHE WAS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED DURING A STRIP SEARCH HOAX AND THAT MCDONALD'S SHOULD HAVE WARNED EMPLOYEES ABOUT IT. A FAKE COP CALLED THE ASSISTANT MANAGER IN 2004 CLAIMING OGBORN WAS A THIEF AND ORDERED THE MANAGER TO HAVE HER STRIP SEARCHED. THE MANAGER CALLED HER BOYFRIEND TO DO THE SEARCH AND THEN, FOLLOWING THE FAKE COP'S ORDER.. MADE OGBORN PERFORM ORAL SEX. OGBORN'S CLAIMS MICKY-D'S SHOULD HAVE PROTECTED HER.

September 17

HONDA SAYS ITS RECALLING MORE THAN 180-THOUSAND '06-'07 HONDA CIVICS. SUITS SAY A WHEEL-BEARING SEAL COULD LEAK AND CAUSE A WHEEL TO FALL OFF. THE COMPANY HAS RECEIVED TWO COMPLAINTS RELATED TO THE PROBLEM. BUT NO ONE HAS BEEN HURT.

September 18

AND... You might want to start saving your pennies! THE MAN WHO HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GROWING MONEY ON TREES IS SENDING OUT A WARNING THAT MAY AFFECT THE STOCK MARKET THIS MORNING. ALAN GREENSPAN SAYS THE ODDS that THE U-S will SLIP INTO A RECESSION THIS YEAR... ARE GROWING. IN FACT HE PUTS THE ODDS AT GREATER THAN ONE IN THREE. He sent WALL STREET in a tailspin EARLIER THIS YEAR when he uttered THE WORD, "RECESSION."

September 19

AND.. TEENS AREN'T TOO SMART WHEN IT COMES TO drugs. A new METH-PROJECT REPORT finds teens BELIEVE IT'S EASY TO GET, THERE'S LITTLE RISK... AND THAT THERE ARE BENEFITS TO USING IT LIKE LOSING WEIGHT AND COPING WITH BOREDOM. WHITE HOUSE DRUG CZAR JOHN WALTERS CALLS THOSE ATTITUDES "TROUBLING" AND HE THINKS THERE NEEDS TO BE AN AGGRESSIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO WARN THE YOUNGIN'S ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THE METH.

September 20

CITY OFFICIALS TURNED DOWN HIS REQUEST TO VISIT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER site. IRANIAN OFFICIALS SAID THEIR OUTSPOKEN LEADER WANTS TO "PAY HIS RESPECTS" to the victims and LAY A WREATH DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U-N GENERAL ASSEMBLY. But CITY OFFICIALS Say it's too much of a SECURITY CONCERN.

September 21

THEY'RE REACTING TO THIS SICKO IN SAN DIEGO BEATING AN ELDERLY WOMAN FOR HER PURSE. AS SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS ROLL AT A GAS STATION, YOU CAN SEE A MAN GO AFTER THE PURSE OF THE 70-YEAR-OLD WOMAN. SHE TRIES TO GET AWAY, BUT HE DOESN'T GIVE UP. SHE FIGHTS BACK, AND MOMENTS LATER, HE PUNCHES HER. AFTER A STRUGGLE, HE THROWS HER TO THE GROUND... STILL, SHE REFUSES

TO GIVE UP THE PURSE, HANGING ON, UNTIL HE FINALLY WRESTLES IT FREE AND RUNS AWAY. COPS SAY YOU SHOULD JUST LET IT GO!

September 24

Folks living in Orlando, Florida might have ocean front property some day! Scientists say the rising seas will likely swamp the first American settlement in Jamestown, Virginia, as well as the Florida launch pad that sent the first American into orbit. They think that, in about a century, some of America's landmarks on the east coast will become consumed by the sea.

September 25

Let's hear it for the background noise! New research suggests all that background babble may help "out of control" school children pay attention in class. you can thank Swedish scientists for the discovery. they tested a group of children diagnosed with ADHD who are usually hard to control and easily distracted. But instead of distracting them, the presence of noise seemed to help them concentrate.

September 26

WHERE'S THE BEEF?... I HOPE IT'S NOT BETWEEN YOUR TEETH THIS MORNING BECAUSE THERE IS A RECALL. A NEW JERSEY-BASED MEAT COMPANY IS VOLUNTARILY RECALLING BOXES OF its FROZEN HAMBURGERS AFTER SEVERAL PEOPLE IN NEW YORK GOT SICK FROM E-COLI POISONING. THE U-S-D-A SAYS THE RECALL AFFECTS MORE THAN 331-THOUSAND POUNDS OF FROZEN BEEF PATTIES THAT WERE DISTRIBUTED NATIONWIDE.

September 27

Researchers in the U.K. have developed a smart bra for breast screening. The undergarment has a microwave antennae device implanted into the structure of the bra. Information about each breast is collected by embedded microchips which generate computer-generated images.

September 28

Score one for the men! When it comes to happiness... the guys seem to find more of it than the ladies! According to the New York Times, there's a growing happiness gap between men and women. men are working less and relaxing more... while women have replaced housework with paid work, and as a result are spending more time doing things they don't enjoy. women aren't actually working more today than they were 30 years ago... they're just spending more time on paid work and less on cooking and cleaning.